PACIFIC LEATHERBACK TURTLES (*DERMOCHELYS*) OFF THE COAST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.—The Pacific leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea schlegelii*), largest of the marine turtles, is rarely seen in Canadian waters. Probably the first recorded instance was in August 1931 when two were killed near Bajo Reef in Nootka Sound. As described in the British Columbia Report of the Provincial Museum of Natural History for 1931, both turtles were of similar size and a weight of 1,450 pounds is given for the first to be taken.

Mr. R. M. Wilson, as port representative for the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, reports only a few occurrences of turtles since he began recording the biological observations of fishermen in 1947. His first record shows that the troller *Moya D.* encountered a turtle on La Perouse Bank on 20 September 1954. On 21 September the troller *Asbjurg* reported a large turtle off Pachena Point and again on the following day, one-half mile closer to shore. These three separate sightings occurred in the vicinity of Barkley Sound and could well have been of the same animal.

Another report on 21 September 1954 is clearly of a second turtle. This was seen by the trollers *White V* and *New V* off Esperanza Inlet, some one hundred miles north of Barkley Sound. Two days later, on 23 September, the troller *Duel* saw two turtles in Brooks Bay, approximately fifty miles north of Esperanza Inlet. It is not apparent from the report whether they were seen as a pair or separately. Certainly there was one present and it is possible, though unlikely, that this was the same as seen earlier by the *White V.*

Nearly three years elapsed before another occurrence. On 22 July 1957 a 653-pound turtle became entangled in Mr. K. Banman's gill-net in Useless Inlet, Barkley Sound (Anon., 1957, *The Fisherman, Vol. XIX, No. 25*). Despite efforts to keep it alive it died from exhaustion and the carcass was forwarded from Kildonan to the University of British Columbia.

At an approximate Latitude of 50°10′ N, the Brooks Bay observation remained the most northerly until 23 September 1961. On this date a large turtle was seen and photographed by investigators of the Fisheries Research Board in Sedgwick Bay (Queen Charlotte Islands) at 52°36′ N Lat., 131°32′ W Long. This observation would seem to be the most northerly to date.

That there is some connection between these few and sporadic occurrences and changes in water temperature can only be assumed. Data available on temperatures off the British Columbia coast (Hollister, 1960, *Fish. Res. Bd. Canada, MS Rept. Oceanogr. and Limnol., No. 68, 141 pp.*) indicate no obvious relationship. It may be of interest, however, to note that the surface temperature in Sedgwick Bay on 23 September 1961 was approximately 53°F. If this can be considered relatively cold for a tropical species it did not appear to inhibit one turtle's ability to swim actively and dive with grace.—I. B. MacAskie and C. R. Forrester, *Fisheries Research Board of Canada, Biological Station, Nanaimo, B. C., Canada.*

REPORT OF GIANT SALAMANDER IN CALIFORNIA.—For the past 15 years there have been rumors of a relic population of *Megalobatrachus* in the Trinity Mountains and an introduced one in the Sacramento River.

Having been very closely associated with both sources of information, and having failed to publish information available to me some ten years ago, I feel partly responsible for the misleading publication on the subject, and my conscience compels me to offer a note at this time to straighten the matter out.

I know of at least four oldtimers of the Trinity Mountains who have heard stories of giant salamanders (or lizards) associated with the limestone country to the west of the Trinity Alps. They heard the stories first some thirty or forty years ago.

In 1948, I heard the most detailed account of the Trinity Mountains salamander. It was related to me by the late John D. Hubbard of Paradise. John Hubbard, in the 1920's, was a mining engineer of the Keystone Mine in the North Fork of the Trinity River. An attorney for the company, Frank L. Griffith of Weaverville, told Hubbard of having seen the giant salamanders.

Griffith dispatched a deer in a meadow near the head of New River. The meadow was in limestone country; it had many potholes and a small lake. One end was deep by a large projecting rock where a cave opened underwater. He saw on the bottom five salamanders from "five to nine feet

long." He caught one on a hook, but could not pull it out. This account stimulated me to make two trips on foot and two by air in attempt to locate Griffith's lake.

I told John Hubbard that if this story was true, the salamanders were probably a population of *Dicamptodon* isolated in the limestone country. Or, it could even be a relic population of *Megalobatrachus.* He began to talk to newspaper people, as he now had the "support" of a scientist. Newspaper articles sent the story flying around the state.

In the meantime George Myers (*Copeia 1951, p. 179–80*) reported seeing a giant salamander that had been caught in the Sacramento River. He said ". . . the creature exhibited coloration quite at variance not only with that of several Japanese examples I have seen, but also with published accounts of the color of Chinese specimens. . . . Its coloration even suggested the possibility of a native California *Megalobatrachus,* which would not be surprising . . ."

This information was soon linked with the story from the Trinity Mountains and a rush to bring the first *Megalobatrachus* out of the Trinities developed.

I examined the Sacramento River specimen two days after it was caught. The next day, the *Oakland Tribune* reported the capture of the "monster" and that afternoon the *Tribune* phone was ringing. The "monster" was Benny, one of three such salamanders brought from "somewhere in China" by Wong Hong, an odd-fish fancier. According to Captain Charles Bjork of the Steamer *Isleton,* one of the three animals disappeared from Wong's tub while the ship was passing through the straits on the way to Stockton Harbor.

Last September Robert C. Stebbins, Nathan W. Cohen, and I, accompanied by ten laymen, back-packed into the Trinity Mountains to a lake chosen by me as the one visited by Griffith. We found the meadow with potholes, the lake with a deep end and a cave under a large projecting rock. We caught large salamanders on a 40-pound test line, and broke the line trying to pull one salamander out of the cave; others severed the lines with their teeth. Our experiences were very much like those described by Griffith. In fact, some of the boys who accompanied us mistook logs three to six feet long for salamanders. We collected about a dozen *Dicamptodon;* the largest was *eleven-and-one-half inches long.*

It is hoped that this evidence will kill rumors about any giant salamanders (much less *Megalobatrachus*) in the Trinity Mountains of California.—Thomas L. Rodgers, *Department of Biology, Chico State College, Chico, California.*

CLOACAL TEMPERATURES OF THE GREEN AND HAWKSBILL SEA TURTLES.—Since Cowles and Bogert (1944, *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. 83:261–96*) called attention to the phenomena of thermoregulation in lizards, interest in the subject has spread and thermal data in various groups of reptiles have accumulated. None of this information applies to sea turtles, however. The purpose of this study was to record the cloacal temperatures of the green (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtles.

The turtles were taken at night during July and August, 1960 and 1961, as they crawled out of the ocean to lay eggs on the beach at Tortuguero, Costa Rica. Some turtles were turned over shortly after they emerged from the sea; others were turned after the eggs had been laid. Temperatures were taken with a slow-reading, mercurial thermometer inserted approximately five inches into the cloaca. Water, air, and sand surface temperatures were taken immediately after each turtle's temperature was recorded. The average carapace length of the 14 green turtles studied was 95.5 centimeters (range 87.5–107.5 cm). The corresponding weights of these turtles would be between 250 and 300 pounds. Two hawksbill turtles were included in the study. Their carapace lengths were 82.5 cm and 86.3 cm.

The average cloacal temperature of seven green turtles, taken from three to twenty minutes after they had left the water and before laying, was 29.9°C (S.D. ± 0.99). The mean cloacal temperature of seven green turtles, taken from one to two hours after emerging from the ocean and after laying eggs, was 30.0°C (± 0.71). One hawksbill had a temperature of 28.5°C and the other, 29.0°C, both after laying eggs. The temperature of the sea in shallow water offshore varied only one degree during the period of the study (average 27.9°C, range 27.5–28.5°C).

The results (see Table 1) show no signifi-